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AM-TURNER 11-14

CHICAGO (UPI) -- CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER MONDAY DENIED REPORTS HE ORDERED THE FIRING OF SOME 900 CIA AGENTS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS BECAUSE NEW TECHNICAL DEVICES ARE MORE EFFICIENT THAN HUMANS.

TURNER HAS NOTIFIED CIA EMPLOYEES THE JOBS OF 198 MEMBERS OF THE CLANDESTINE SERVICE WILL BE ELIMINATED ON MARCH 31 AND AN ADDITIONAL 700 WILL END DEC. 31, 1979. HE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THE CUTS WERE MADE FOR ECONOMIC REASONS.

"WE DID NOT MAKE THEM (CUTS) BECAUSE I THINK TECHNOLOGICAL INTELLIGENCE WILL REPLACE HUMAN INTELLIGENCE," TURNER SAID. "I'M MERELY CUTTING THE OVERHEAD ... I THINK HAVING EXCESS PEOPLE IS BAD."

SOME NEWS STORIES SAID THE CUTBACKS WERE MADE BECAUSE THE CIA HAS BEEN RELYING MORE ON TECHNICAL DEVICES, INCLUDING SATELLITES AND ELECTRONIC INTERCEPTION, FOR COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.

BUT TURNER SAID THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WORKING IN THE OPERATIONS SECTION OF THE CIA WAS INCREASED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR YEARS AND REDUCTIONS HAD TO BE MADE.

"I'M SORRY," TURNER SAID OF THE CUTBACKS. "IT'S NEVER EASY TO TELL PEOPLE THEIR SERVICES ARE NO LONGER NEEDED."

HE ALSO SAID SOVIET AGENTS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE INTERCEPTING MESSAGES AND PHONE CALLS TRANSMITTED BY MICROWAVE RADIATION AND THAT ANY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED OVER A CABLE OR SOME OTHER SECURE DEVICE.

"THIS PROBLEM (MICROWAVE INTERCEPTION) IS MUCH MORE WIDESPREAD," TURNER SAID, ADDING INDUSTRIAL SPIES AND EVEN PRIVATE CITIZENS ARE INTERCEPTING MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS.

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